

THE RIO NEWS.

PUBLISHED ON THE 5th, 15th AND 24th OF EVERY MONTH.

VOL. VII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, MAY 15TH, 1880

NUMBER 14

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A NEW CEREAL.

One of the great problems now confronting the government is the ways and means of assisting the late drought-stricken provinces of the north and providing against fatal results when the drought shall again return—as it will most certainly do. These droughts have not failed to return at frequent intervals with sufficient intensity to cause some loss and suffering, and at greater intervals with sufficient intensity to drive the people from their homes and to turn the whole country into a desert. At such times the loss of property and life is simply beyond all computation.

The last of these *sécas*, which has only just closed, lasted throughout a period of three years, cost the national treasury about sixty millions of milreis, and cost Ceará and the neighboring provinces more than a half million of lives. The people were driven into the cities and towns, and thousands of them were driven into other parts of the empire where they still remain. All these years have been years of unparalleled suffering, and the resources of the imperial government have been taxed to the uttermost to meet the necessities of a wide spread famine and pestilence.

The great *séca* has at last passed and the government now has an opportunity to consider causes and remedies. That the drought will return can be no doubt; its causes lie in climatic conditions over which there can be no human control. But that its intensity may be modified and its fatal results averted, is sufficiently evident to warrant every effort which it may be in the power of the government to make.

Among the modifying influences with in easy reach is, that of tree planting—a measure which the government should lose no time in putting into execution. The beneficial effects of a wooded country not only in retaining moisture, but in increasing the rainfall, have already been observed and demonstrated. Every acre of unenriched land in these northern provinces, which is able to support it, should be covered with forest, and the wanton sacrifice of timber should be prevented by law. The planting and care of forest trees could easily be secured either by remission of taxes or by the payment of a small bounty. Other modifying influences will also be found in the adoption of irrigating works and artesian wells wherever the nature of the country will permit. Although these agencies can only be used in certain localities, to be determined by the engineer and geologist, they will always tend to ward off the early influences of the drought and to greatly modify the evils which follow soon after.

Among the alleviating influences are the improved means of communication which bring the populations of these unfortunate localities into speedier communication with the outside world. This measure has already been adopted by the government through the building of railroads into the drought-afflicted districts. Although this work has thus far been of great benefit to the starving people of the north, and will always tend, if properly managed, to greatly reduce the sufferings of the people in times of drought, it is still insufficient to meet all the exigencies of the case. Railroads can not be built into every community of those provinces, nor can the people be provided with means of easy communication with the two or three lines projected and built. Some other means must be placed in the hands of the people which will mitigate, in great measure, the early influence of a prolonged *séca* and therefore prevent the fatal results of the last visitation which were in full operation before the rest of the empire became fully aware of it. This means we trust has been found in a new cereal which has lately been attracting considerable attention in some western localities of the United States. A cereal which will withstand the effects of a severe drought and yet produce abundantly is certainly a great *desideratum* for these drought-visited provinces of the north. Con-

cerning this new cereal we extract the following from the New York *Commercial Bulletin* of April 3rd:

A revelation of no inconsiderable importance to the grain trade comes to us from Western Kansas and New Mexico—namely, the successful development there of what may be called a new cereal, represented to be more nutritious than either corn, oats, or rice, and which will grow where other grains have withered and died from extreme drought. It is called Egyptian corn, or pampas rice, and the seed is supposed to have been originally brought to the United States from Southern Russia by the Mennonites immigrants. It was first brought to public notice some two years ago by a Mr. Hollingsworth, of Cilego, who purchased a ranch of some 1,800 acres three or four miles south of Kinsley, on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. Kinsley is situated in the valley of the Arkansas, in what is often called the "dry belt," 316 miles west of Kansas City, and about the same distance east of Pueblo. Finding the new cereal growing in great perfection on a neighboring ranch, he determined to see what he could do with it? The details of his experiences are given in a letter from Las Vegas (N. M.) to the Chicago *Tribune*, of which the following is an extract:

"Mr. Hollingsworth had forty acres of soil turned over and having prepared several quarts of the seed, and with an ordinary scat-hoist he sowed two or three grains a foot or two apart in the soil. There had not been a drop of rain for the previous eight months, and the soil was so dry that the seed did not germinate. After it got fairly started, the rain came on and grew very fine. After it got fairly started, the stalks were four or five inches high, and the grain came up in the seed—remained in the soil. The corn can't be harvested until it has come up from the ground, so it is not affected by the frost. The stalks are much thicker for fuel than corn stalks and make as good fuel also. Its fruit qualities are excellent, and the grain is excellent for bread. Egyptian corn is a new cereal, and it will furnish flour for a family for an entire winter. From the top of the stalk issued a stalk, like nothing like that of sorghum, this one droops over, and the whole bunch is one mass of the grain. The kernel is rather a little smaller and more nearly round. Each stalk is a stalk in itself, containing from 100 to 150 grains, yielding some sixty bushels to the acre, wringing sixty pounds to the bushel. The stalk is much harder for fuel than corn stalks and makes as good fuel also. Its fruit qualities are excellent, and the grain is excellent for bread. Egyptian corn is a new cereal, and it will furnish flour for a family for an entire winter. From the top of the stalk issued a stalk, like nothing like that of sorghum, this one droops over, and the whole bunch is one mass of the grain. The kernel is rather a little smaller and more nearly round. Each stalk is a stalk in itself, containing from 100 to 150 grains, yielding some sixty bushels to the acre, wringing sixty pounds to the bushel. 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THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet, the French packet of the 15th, and Royal Mail packet of the 24th, of the month;

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs, a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, a table of tides and charters, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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All subscriptions must run with the calendar year.

Books numbers supplied at this office from April 1st, 1879. Subscriptions and advertisements received at the

EDITORIAL ROOMS:—8 Rue São Pedro

Agents for the United States:

C. Mc CULLOCH BEECHER & Co.,
4 Wall Street, New York

RIO DE JANEIRO, MAY 15TH, 1880.

We are glad to announce that the report of the position taken by the minister of agriculture with reference to the American steamship line, which we gave in our last issue, was an entirely mistaken one, and that it credited him with a remark which he never made. In fact what he did say with reference to the payment of the subsidy was the very contrary of that which we reported. Our error in this matter was due to a similar error in the legislative report of the *Jornal do Commercio*, upon which our remarks were based. As the *Jornal* did not correct the error in its report, we were not aware of the injustice which we had done Minister Buarque de Macedo until some days after the publication of our last issue. We are glad to make this correction both as a matter of record and as an act of simple justice.

THE DEATH OF MARSHAL LUIZ ALVES DE LIMA E SILVA, DUQUE DE CAXIAS. which took place on the evening of the 7th inst., removes one of the most conspicuous and honored men in the history of the empire of Brazil. Born in 1803 and of a family which stood high in the military and civil circles of the day, and entering military service at a very early age, his public career has been contemporaneous not only with that of the Emperor Dom Pedro II, but even with that of the empire itself. Setting aside the unimportant entanglement at the age of five years, which his father's position as a field marshal and senator permitted, it is sufficiently exact to say that his public service began in 1818, at the age of fifteen years, on his entrance into the royal military academy. That was five years previous to the declaration of Brazilian independence and the establishment of the existing imperial government of Brazil. In 1820 began his career of promotion, and in 1822 the independence of Brazil was declared. From that time down to the present day he has been the favored child of the empire and his career of promotion has been regular and continuous. Others, it may be, have fought harder in battle, and planned more wisely in council, but none outstripped him in unvarying devotion to the imperial cause. From the favored protégé of the first Emperor he became the right arm of the second, and to him more than any other man perhaps is due the credit of pacifying and consolidating the several provinces of the empire. That he did this less with the sword than with the purse and arts of the diplomat is a matter of history; when the day of eulogy shall have passed the impartial historian will then award him his true place in the annals of his country. In the language of extravagant eulogy he is now placed among the few great military leaders of the world; for this the coming historian will find no other foundation than the undisciplined admiration of a peaceful people whose wars have been but little more than the domestic quarrel or border foray of the hour. With him will pass away much of the formal loyalty and conservatism of the old-time empire, but the example of his faithful adherence to the imperial house will remain green long after his renown as a soldier shall have been forgotten.

Our attention has been frequently called to the scandalous practices of this port in the matter of stealing and shipping seamen. It has been pointed out to us again and again that Rio de Janeiro has become one of the worst ports in this respect known to the commerce of the world. The practice of running off sailors has been an evil of

long standing, and that of exacting illegal fees and "shanghaing" has grown into an abuse of such proportions that it is openly and avowedly practiced. Whether or not the laws of this port are sufficient to check this criminal practice is not a subject for us to discuss here; the apathy and indifference of the authorities to the whole matter is what concerns us most. Complaints have been made over and over again but to no purpose, and men have been taken away illegally in open day and under the very eyes of the police. The following is an example, the proofs of which are in our possession. On the morning of May 1st a notorious character of this city, named William Wilson, a sailor's boarding-house keeper and the confidential runner of the American consulate, hired five men to assist in getting the American bark *Almira Robinson* ready for sea. The result was that four of these men were taken to sea—the fifth making his escape by jumping into the boat before it could get away. One of the unfortunate men, it is said, is a German who leaves a family in destitute circumstances. Two of them are English, and the nationality of the fourth is unknown to us. We are informed also that the wife of the German entered a complaint to the police authorities, but owing to some understanding between the police and Wilson, nothing has been done. It has long been known that this Wilson, one of the most brutal and disreputable men in this city, has been engaged in stealing and "shanghaing" sailors. Some months ago he "shanghaied" an English boy, who was here under the care of the British consul. The boy was shipped on an American vessel bound for Rio Grande do Sul. Owing to the protests of the British consul, the American consul was obliged to write to Rio Grande, and the boy was there delivered up and sent to England. Notwithstanding that flagrant case the American consul has kept this Wilson in his confidential employ, the latter even boasting about the streets that he is a clerk in the employ of the United States government. The practices of this man, under the apparent protection of the American consul, are a source of general complaint, and are disgraceful in the highest degree. In the interests of American shipmasters and of the reputation of this port, we would call these outrages to the attention of the minister of justice and ask that a decided check be put upon them.

THE AMERICAN EXHIBITION

THE EMPEROR OF BRAZIL has called for twenty-five years all buildings belonging to the city palace, in extent one block, for depot and construction of the new exhibition palace.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce*, March 20.

We take the foregoing from the condensed news column of one of the most conservative and conscientious commercial newspapers in the city of New York. Were it an item of sensational correspondence, or a news item in a sensational journal it would scarcely be worth the attention of a correction, but as it has forced its way into good company and is imposing upon respectable people, it calls for a degree of recognition immeasurably beyond its merits. Had the "resident director in New York" of this exhibition scheme—for we see the traces of Mr. John C. Kip Hopper's fertile imagination in the matter—stated that the Brazilian government had been asked for the city palace, we should not have questioned the statement in the slightest degree. The managers of this scheme have never betrayed any bashfulness in the matter of asking. For example: the government is expending large sums of money on the Campo S'nt'Anna, or Praça d'Acclamação—in front of the Senate Chamber—for the purpose of creating a small park and public garden—Mr. Hopper asked that it should be turned over to him for his exhibition scheme; the Ajuda convent occupies a large enclosed space near the outer bay and is in the possession of three aged nuns to whom the State has guaranteed the possession of the property during their lives—Mr. Hopper asked for this also; between the Praça Dom Pedro II and the shore line is a desirable square from which the government removed a lot of unsightly sheds and warehouses not long since and refused to rent it to two or more responsible parties for commercial purposes because of its decision to keep the ground free for public purposes—Messrs. Hopper and Arthur wanted that also, fronting the city palace and forming a part of the Praça Dom Pedro II is a paved square which serves an admirable purpose for a par-

ade ground and for opening the most densely-inhabited part of the city to the fresh sea breezes—this, too, according to the papers, has been asked for. And now the American public is informed that the city palace itself has been ceded for twenty-five years! We are astonished at Mr. Hopper's modesty in this matter! He might just as well have announced the acquisition of the custom house as a depot, the department of agriculture as an exhibition building, and the Emperor's palace of São Christovão as the exhibitors' boarding-house! Our American contemporaries will see the real value of this whole statement when we say that it is worth just as much as an announcement that President Hayes had ceded the Capitol of the United States for an international poultry show. The Emperor of Brazil has no more right to cede the title or use of any public ground or building than the President of the United States. Everything of that nature, even to the granting of a concession to run an express service in connection with the Dom Pedro II railway, must go through the two houses of parliament and the ordinary channels of ministerial and imperial confirmation. Mr. Hopper's bill (No. 54) still slumbers peacefully in a legislative pigeon hole, where, for the credit of those most concerned, it should be allowed to remain undisturbed.

And now that we have entered upon a discussion of this subject, we will add a few more words on the general subject of this "mutually philanthropic and protective" permanent American exhibition, and upon a certain pamphlet issued in New York by Mr. John C. Kip Hopper in the interests of the same. The whole scheme from the proposed magnificent exhibition palace in Rio de Janeiro (the city palace?) to the "temporary offices" at 407 and 409 Broadway, New York, from which this ridiculous pamphlet was issued, is a gigantic humbug. Mr. Hopper is not known here, even by the old resident, as "formerly a merchant in the city of Rio de Janeiro," and neither his business standing nor his knowledge of the country entitles him to speak of Brazilian commercial affairs with authority. The "wealthy Brazilian association" to which he allied himself on his last visit to Brazil is only one in the thousand which serve to support a few managing officers, and a tremendously long, unintelligible title. The "Brazilian national exhibition" held under the auspices of this association was a small, local affair, and the charitable purpose for which it was held is still awaiting the promised proceeds. The "buildings all ready" which this association is said to possess are still awaiting the birth of an architect and over-credulous contractor. The "honorable names" attached to the prospectus are almost as significant as the same class of names usually attached to the boards of trustees of similar institutions in the United States and England; besides that the "honorary president," Conde d'Ent, and the "honorary vice-president," Visconde do Rio Branco, were both absent from the empire as the time of the fusion, and could not have authorized the use of their names. The "union" between Mr. Hopper and Mr. Arthur—who is the larger part of the "mutual philanthropy" society—was simply an union between two rivals for the same concession, and is entitled to the same credit as an agreement between any two persons who represent neither capital nor commercial association. If every merchant were to demand good security from these parties for his investments and consignments, the whole thing would fall to the ground. The scheme is extravagant, the objects are visionary, the means are impracticable, and the agents are irresponsible—and that is the sum and substance of the proposed Permanent American Exhibition.

A BRAZILIAN FINANCIAL EXPEDIENT.

NEW YORK, April 1, 1880.

To the Editor of the *Commercial Bulletin*:

A correspondent of the *Horizon*, writing from Rio de Janeiro, says: "It is currently rumored that the Brazilian minister of finance is engaged in the preparation of important financial projects for presentation to the next legislature. One is the establishment of a bank of issue, based upon government stock, by which it proposes to give a certain fixity to the present erratic variations of its gold value. The minister aims to give a certain fixity to the inconvertible currency of the country by means similar to those employed in the United States."

This subject is of some importance, and should be given a full and extended treatment. The object is to prevent excessive fluctuations in gold, and give, by that means, a more fixed value to the inconvertible currency of the country. What does the minister of finance do? Before his plans have been brought before the legislature, he, through the Bank of Brazil, buys 89,160 bags of coffee to sustain the exchange, most of it being shipped to this country, the net proceeds of which is to be re-

mitted to England to meet the interest on bonds. The same week, when the purchase was made, the exchange at Rio was 23½d., and it fell immediately afterwards to 22d., a difference of 5 per cent. against the merchant who shipped coffee two weeks before.

How can an exporter compete with the minister of finance? The consequence will be that this first shipment will be kept for a better market; the exchange will still further decline, perhaps to 20d., as it was last July; and the currency price of coffee will advance to 25d. or 26d. The government does not buy the balance of this crop to sustain the exchange and the price of coffee, the result of this first investment will be a heavy loss to the treasury, and besides will destroy the legitimate business of the importers and bankers.

MERCHANT.

In another column, a correspondent calls attention to a recent financial operation by the Brazilian government which is of no little importance to a class of our importers. The trade of Brazil suffers at times very seriously from the fluctuations in exchange consequent on the inconvertibility of the paper currency; and the government appears to itself called upon to remedy these oscillations. It finds a special motive for doing so in the fact that a considerable amount of the national obligations is held in Europe, and the depreciation of exchange frequently causes a heavy loss to the government in the remittance of interest. At the beginning of last month, the government had to remit about \$2,000,000 to London for this purpose; and rather than derange the exchanges by coming into the market as a buyer of bills for such a large amount, the minister of finance hit upon the expedient of buying up some 90,000 bags of coffee, shipping it chiefly to the United States, and remitting the proceeds of its sale to London. Strictly speaking, we should say perhaps that the bank was merely the agent of the treasury in the transaction. The facility of this expedient as a means of regulating the exchanges is so well exposed by our correspondent that it is needless to say more on that point. But such operations have such an injurious bearing upon trade with Brazil that the action of Dom Pedro's government in this matter is to be regretted to the last degree.

It is impossible for any government to interfere with the marketing of commodities without injury to all parties. Its action, in such cases, is always arbitrary, regulated by its own temporary convenience and not by any of those considerations that control commercial operations; and yet its transactions are on such a scale that all have to yield upon its action. In the present case 100,000 bags of coffee is prematurely exported, the effect of which is to unnaturally strengthen the market there. When the coffee reaches New York, the supply is to that extent suddenly anticipated, and the element of weakness is brought to bear on prices. These inequities, however, would be soon adjusted, if they were left to be dealt with by ordinary commercial prudence. But the owner of this coffee is not a merchant, but a needy government; and the coffee consequently hangs as a dead weight upon the market, every other holder dreading that it may be precipitated at needlessly low prices; and thus the intrusion of the Imperial interloper paralyzes the market. Paralysis at the market of export and the injury finally falls upon Dom Pedro's subjects. In the meantime, what is the position of the Emperor as a coffee merchant? His own action has produced distrust and paralysis in the market in which he has to sell. Knowing his financial necessities, no one is in a hurry to buy from him. The larger importers whose trade he has injured find it necessary to recompense themselves by adopting a policy which will enable them to buy his coffee at a low figure; and at last having by his large purchases put up the price at Rio and then put it down here through his excessive offerings, he pockets a heavy loss by his operation; a loss, in all probability, far outweighing the disadvantage he had to encounter in making his remittance in the ordinary way.

It is to be hoped this first experiment of the new Brazilian minister of finance will be the last. It may be a good operation for the Bank of Brazil but it will be a poor one for the government; and it may be hoped that the sound practical sense of the Emperor will prevent its repetition. The merchants of Rio can only condemn such deranging interferences with the course of business; and as for these merchants, they can have but one recourse if these practices are continued—to treat the Rio market with a caution that will place it more at their mercy and enable them, by buying at lower prices, to compensate themselves for the uncertainties that these extraneous operations bring upon their business. Unfortunately for the Emperor's government this transaction too plainly implies that the finance department still lacks a head capable of introducing a wise policy. —*N. Y. Commercial Bulletin* April 2.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

The opening of the third regular session of the present General Assembly on the 3rd instant, was followed on the 4th by the customary election of officers and committees. No change was made in the presiding officers of the two houses. In the Chamber an unimportant scene occurred, the first secretary-elect, Cesario Alvim, persisting in resigning because 14 out of 63 votes were cast against him. Like some other political leaders, Deputy Alvim believes in an unanimous election.

The Senate decided on the 7th inst. to admit Counselor Christiano Benedicto Ottoni as senator from the province of Espírito Santo, and he accordingly took his seat on the 8th. The Senate also voted on the roth to admit Coanselor Lafayette as senator from Minas Geraes, who took his seat on the following day.

The budget for the fiscal year 1880-81 was presented to the Chamber on the 11th. The general receipts of the empire are estimated at 116,958,000\$ and the general expenditures at 118,286,758,574, not taking into account the supplementary credits already authorized.

—The Senate took up the case of Morris N. Kohn versus the director of the Dom Pedro II railway on the roth inst. and discussed it throughout the 11th and part of the 12th inst.

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE MAISLEIRA AND MAMORÉ RAILWAY LOAN IN LONDON involves the sale of £744,300 in United States 4 per cent. bonds. The proceeds of this sale will be distributed among the bondholders at the rate of £45 a bond. The loan was originally issued at £68.

MARRIAGE.

NICOLSON—ACKBAR.—On the 12th inst. at Christ Church, Rio Janeiro, by the Rev. Frederick Young, P. S. Nicolson to Adriana Eugenie, eldest daughter of the late M. A. Ackbar, Esq., of London and Bombay. No cards.

LOCAL NOTES.

—The *Vital de Oliveira* arrived at Suez on the 27th ult.

—The number of immigrant arrivals at this port in March was 1,769, and the number of departures 237.

—According to the last report the subscriptions for a monument to General Osório had reached \$5,700,120.

—The transport *Purus* sailed for Santa Catharina and Rio Grande do Sul on the 4th inst. with 593 immigrants.

—The steamer *Rio Grande*, Capt. Pennington, is now en route from New York to Rio, in place of the *City of Paris*, laid up for repairs.

—The tenor Tanagno has been made a knight of the order of the Conceição de Villa Viçosa, by the King of Portugal. *Alto elogio!*

—It is announced that the inaugural ceremonies at the opening of the public garden in the Praça da Aclamação will take place early next month.

—Another concession for coffee machinery was granted on the 4th inst. It covers a term of five years. José Guardioli is the fortunate man.

—Decree 7,703, of the 4th inst., grants a five years concession to José Ribeiro da Silva for the manufacture and sale of a coffee hulling machine.

—The minister of war, who has been very ill, is now decidedly better. The minister of empire has so far recovered from his late illness as to resume his portfolio.

—The *Relação* of São Paulo has given judgment in favor of the Santos police official who allowed the defaulting cashier Carlos Stelling to slip through his fingers.

—It is finally announced that the Emperor and Empress will leave for Paraná on the 17th inst. The coasting steamer *Rio Grande* is being prepared for their reception.

—Among the arrivals on the French packet *Gironde*, on the 10th inst., were the French and Swedish ministers to Brazil, MM. Leon Alexis Noel and C. J. E. Cederström.

—The minister of agriculture has ordered the construction of a bridge at Barraçana, Minas Gerais, in compliance with petitions from the people of that city.

—Captain and senator-elect Silveira Martins has been seriously ill with pneumonia since his arrival from Rio Grande on the 4th. Happily he has so far improved as to be now considered out of danger.

—Decree 7,704, of the 4th inst., grants a five years privilege to G. Paille and Leon Joly for the manufacture and sale of a coffee burning machine of their invention.

—By decree 7,701, of the 4th inst., Carlos Ernesto da Silva Brandão received a five years concession for the manufacture and sale of a coffee burning machine.

—Among the arrivals on the Pacific Mail packet *Paráspato*, of the 12th inst., was Mr. Alexandre Wagner, and Messrs Alfred and Charles McKinney, of McKinney & Co., all prominent merchants of this city.

—The recent elections in São Paulo, Rio Janeiro and Pernambuco have returned Ministers Barão Homem de Melo, Pedro Luiz and Buarque de Macedo at the head of the publics, thus confirming their appointments to the ministry.

—Captain Felinto Perry has been appointed administrator of the Rio Grande bar. If the sands don't move now, a hooker keeper and cashier will probably be added to the official superintendence of that unruly locality. There is nothing like an energetic official supervision of matters like this!

—Four robbers attacked a drinking saloon in Eagenho Velho on Sunday, the 8th inst., rifled a drawer of 16\$, wounded a clerk with a revolver shot, and then made their escape. The police arrived in time to carry the wounded clerk to the hospital.

—In recognition of his services in the construction of the Batuté railway, the Emperor has conferred the distinction of an official in the Order of the Rose upon Mr. Carlos Alberto Morsing, chief engineer of the line. Orders were also conferred upon six members of Mr. Morsing's engineer corps at the same time.

—According to late custom house regulations no boat is allowed to leave or go out to any merchant ship anchored in the harbor after 8 o'clock in the evening without a permit from the custom house. Each permit will pay a stamp tax of 200 reis. If it be not out of order, we would inquire why the government does not forbid the entrance of any merchant ship into this harbor, and thus put an end to all the agony. If merchants and shipmasters are to be treated as outlaws at all times, it is best to shut them out entirely. We will not discuss the innumerable annoyances and vexations and costs to which these men are put by these *sepeley* regulations, they are clearly apparent.

THE RIO NEWS.

The recently-appointed court-martial is to sit on Captain Faria of the *Saltmores*, on the 18th inst.

Twenty-one immigrants arrived from Itha Terceira on the 12th inst.

The number of deaths from yellow fever from the 1st to the 12th inclusive was 52; or at the average rate of 4.3 a day.

The Pacific mail steamer *Britannia*, Capt. Brough, made her last passage from Valparaiso to Rio in fourteen days, including stoppages. She came a freight ship on the round trip, from Liverpool to Valparaiso and back, of thirty thousand pounds sterling.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new Commercial Association office took place on the 7th inst. according to the rites of the Roman Catholic church. The Emperor, his cabinet, and the directors of the association took part in the ceremonies. The building will have a frontage of 220 feet on Rua Direita, a depth of 148 feet, and a height of 92 feet. It will be built in the Renaissance style.

Through the courtesy of the British consul, G. T. Ricketts, Esq., we have been favored with the following yellow fever statistics from the seaman's hospital of this port at Jurupira. The statistics cover the yellow fever season, January to April inclusive, of the years 1879 and 1880, and include only foreign seamen. In 1879 the number of yellow fever patients was 668; number of deaths 71, or 28 per cent. In 1880, number entered 703; number of deaths 164, or 23 per cent.

The formal inauguration of the city water works took place on the 12th inst., at Peiraguinha in the presence of the Emperor and Empress, the cabinet, the contractor Antonio Galvani, Esq., and a large number of distinguished persons. About 5,000 spectators witnessed the ceremonies. After the religious ceremony of blessing the water had been performed, the Emperor opened the water register with a silver key bearing the inscription, "Dom Pedro II reservoir, inaugurated May 12, 1880." This ceremony was followed by a brief address by the minister of agriculture and a report by the inspector of public works. The inspector was then made a *comendador*, and orders were conferred upon eight other engineers in recognition of their services. The day closed with an examination of the reservoir. The introduction of water into the city a twelvemonth before the stipulated period is a matter for congratulation, and we are informed that in one year from now we may expect the city to be fully supplied even to the remotest suburbs. For the future there will be a bountiful supply wherever the present canalization extends, and this in itself will be a boon of great value to the parched and thirsty. Notwithstanding all that has been most industriously circulated and published regarding the personnel of the water works, it is to be noted that Mr. Galvani's presence has not least secured the opening of this important system to the uses of the public.

It is a matter for public record that our widely known friend, Morris N. Kohn, has achieved an unexampled triumph in the field of legislative manipulation. On the 11th inst., he quietly pocketed the Senate of the empire of Brazil, and kept its grave and weighty members discussing his character and business during one whole day. It's a remarkable occurrence; but he did it with his little hatchet. We do not exactly understand just how the thing was done, but the record shows that ministers and ex-ministers, viscondes, condes, and illustrious gentlemen of all degrees of rank and renown were earnestly and exclusively discussing Mr. Morris N. Kohn. It seems that through some occult agency, Morris invented an express company for the mutual benefit of the Dom Pedro II railway and the city of Rio de Janeiro. In the innocence of his heart, the inventor betrayed the secret of his invention to Dr. Passos of the railway who, as Morris alleges, destroyed his plans and specifications, turned him out of the office, and then turned over the invention to a third party—the Carris Urbano company. It does not appear that the inventor has secured a patent on his express company, though which negled arises certain difficulties in bringing an action for damages. In view of this difficulty, the infallible Mr. Kohn brought the matter before the Senate. A committee has already sat upon him and reported favorably. Official letters have been written by the legislator. And now, as a fitting climax, the Senate has devoted itself one whole day to the highly important task of calling K. and P. hard names, and having the matter so that no one can just exactly tell which side has won.

COMMERCIAL

May 14th, 1880.

Value of the Benfica mil reis (5000), gold, 27 d.
do do do do in U.S. do
do \$1,000 U.S. do in British gold, 8457
do 45 cents.
do 25 cents.
Bank rate of exchange on London to-day, 90 d.
Present value of £1,000 per £1. sig. 8088

Value of \$1.00 (or 84.84 per cent) in British currency (paper) ... \$846
Value of £ sterling ... 11882

EXCHANGE.

May 4—Exchange firm at last quoted: bank rates, sold on London, 47 d. on Paris, 58 d. on Hamburg; mercantile paper, 20 3/16 to 20 5/16; on London, Six per cent, 1,030; 1,032; 1,033; new loan of 1879, 1,032; per cent; loan of 1868, 1,032; 1,033; 1,034; 1,035; Bank of Brazil shares, 1,030.

May 5—Exchange firm at last quotations: mercantile paper on Paris, 48 and 56 per cent. Six per cent, 1,030; 1,032; 1,033; new loan of 1879, 1,032; per cent; loan of 1868, 1,032; 1,033; 1,034; 1,035; Bank of Brazil shares, 1,030.

May 7—Exchange firm at last quotations for bank paper. Mercantile paper sold in the morning at 20 3/16 and 20 5/16 on London, and 47 d. and 47 1/2 on Paris, later in the day there were light transactions at 20 7/16 and 20 5/16 on London, and 48 1/2 per cent on Paris.

May 8—Bank rates firm and unchanged. Light transactions in mercantile paper at 20 3/16 and 20 5/16 on London, 47 d. on Paris, 58 d. on Hamburg; mercantile paper, 20 3/16 to 20 5/16; on London, Six per cent, 1,030; 1,032. In the stock market there were sales of shares of the Banco do Brasil at 20 5/16; Banco do Comercio at 18 83; and Carris Urbano tranways at 20 2/3.

May 11—Lighted transactions in bank paper at 20 3/16 and mercantile paper at 20 3/16 and 20 5/16. On London, mercantile paper 20 3/16 per cent. Six per cent, 1,032; 1,033; 1,034; 1,035; Sovereigns 11882 cash. No business done in stocks.

May 12—Lighted transactions in bank paper at 20 3/16 and mercantile paper at 20 3/16 and 20 5/16. On London, mercantile paper 20 3/16 per cent. Six per cent, 1,032; 1,033; 1,034; 1,035; Sovereigns 11882 cash. No business done in stocks.

May 13—Lighted transactions in bank paper at 20 3/16 and mercantile paper at 20 3/16 and 20 5/16. On London, mercantile paper 20 3/16 per cent. Six per cent, 1,032; 1,033; 1,034; 1,035; Sovereigns 11882 cash. No business done in stocks.

May 14—The provincial treasury of Pernambuco has called for redemption the following *obrigações*, denning 8 per cent interest, due from May 1st: Nos. 4,42 to 320 of the denomination of 500; and Nos. 1, 2 to 7 of the denomination of 1,000.

The export of gold, paper currency and bonds, from this city, as far as can be ascertained, was as follows:

Gold, in bars ... Great Britain 47,000,000
Gold, in coin ... Great Britain 1,566,000,000
To Bahia 3,479,000 1,569,500,000

Paper currency; To Pernambuco 350,000,000
To Rio Grande do Sul 30,000,000 270,000,000

Gold 45 per cent loan of 1879: To Great Britain, about 5,000,000,000

Propportion of cash reserve to liabilities on deposits at call and short notice in banks of Rio de Janeiro, taken from the official monthly balances published April 30, 1880.

BANKS	Deposits in thous. of reais	Cash balance	Proportion per cent.
Banco do Brasil	31,048	9,604	30.93
Banco do Brasil	9,580	947	9.57
Banco Industrial	3,570	332	44.41
Banco Comercial	845	277	32.38
English Bank	3,317	1,771	53.36
New London & Boston Bank	3,371	1,685	49.63
Total.	57,794	12,123	27.62

BANK STATEMENT

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BANK OF BRAZIL

BALANCE SHEET APRIL 30, 1880.

ASSETS.

Commercial Department:

Bill Disbursed:

National Treasury bill 8,144,000 Reais
Bills with two related endorsee 12,461,247,297
" one endorser besides others 4,077,152,924

Bills secured by collateral:

By commercial documents 320,000 Reais
By Government bonds and shares 388,500,000
Securities in liquidation 2,048,957,411
Saldos 1,030,000
Bills receivable 725,574,240

National Treasury account current 5,025,535,563

Mortgage Department:

Capital account 2,000,123,925
Supplementary loan 2,000,000,000

Accounts Current, guaranteed:

By commercial documents 1,020,000,000
By Government bonds and shares 388,500,000
Securities in liquidation 2,048,957,411
Saldos 1,030,000
Bills receivable 725,574,240

National Treasury account current 5,025,535,563

Government Bonds:

General, 6 per cent, of nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discounted as security, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1879, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1880, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1881, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1882, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1883, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1884, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1885, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1886, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1887, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1888, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1889, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1890, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1891, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1892, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1893, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1894, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1895, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1896, nominal value 1,020,000,000

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Discount, National loan of 1907, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1908, nominal value 1,020,000,000

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Discount, National loan of 1921, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1922, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1923, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1924, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1925, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1926, nominal value 1,020,000,000

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Discount, National loan of 1932, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1933, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1934, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1935, nominal value 1,020,000,000

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Discount, National loan of 1940, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1941, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1942, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1943, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1944, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1945, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1946, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1947, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1948, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1949, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1950, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1951, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1952, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1953, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1954, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1955, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1956, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1957, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1958, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1959, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1960, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1961, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1962, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1963, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1964, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1965, nominal value 1,020,000,000

Discount, National loan of 1966, nominal value 1,020,000,000

PROVINCIAL NOTES

The provincial assembly of Alagoas opened on the 16th ult. The Barra tramway at Santos carried 13,341 passengers in April. There were 77 burials in the São Paulo cemetery during the month of April. The provincial assembly of Rio Grande do Sul opened its sessions at Porto Alegre on the 29th ult. The April receipts of the Santos custom house were 611,481\$680; of the internal revenue office 178,555\$414. The April receipts of the Rio Grande custom house were 262,589\$317 of the internal revenue office 67,348\$07.

The provincial budget of Paraná shows an estimated receipt of 3,000,000\$ for the year 1880-81, and an estimated expenditure of 3,567,935\$414.

Joaquim de Barros Penteado has asked for a privilege for exploring guano, etc., on the island of Alcatrazes, Quemada and Lago, near Santos.

The receipts of the Pernambuco custom house in April were 564,546\$714, of the collector's office 88,527\$88, and of the provincial *conselho* 170,626\$94.

A Montevideo paper announces the early arrival of the President of the United States, who is going to visit the Platine Republics and Bolivia. That will be news even at Washington.

In April the receipts of the Bahia custom house were, general 909,009\$136, provincial 148,600\$764; and of the collector's office, general 98,843\$212, provincial 177,081\$303.

The provincial budget of Para for 1880-81 appropriates 659,280\$000 for public instruction, 4,420\$ for public works 621,500\$ for public works and 271,666\$ for aid to navigation.

The public debt of the province of Sergipe at the close of the fiscal year 1878-79 was 769,328\$89. This includes a Caixa Económica loan of 180,000\$ and a Banco do Brasil loan of 100,000\$.

The provincial government of São Paulo has revoked the concession granted to the Paulista railway company October 3, 1877, for the collection of an additional tax of 3 réis per kilo on all coffee transported over their lines.

The Espírito Santo provincial assembly closed its session on the 9th inst., after voting the provincial budget and a railway law, and authorizing the president to make the reforms in public instruction recommended in his message.

The receipts of the Santos custom house during the nine months ending April 1, were 4,704,788\$704; same period of 1878-79, 4,662,524\$117. During these periods the receipts from imports were: 1879-80, 2,132,678\$659; 1878-79, 1,912,713\$467.

At a meeting of the commercial association of Rio Grande it was resolved to petition the government against the present dock tax as weighing too heavily on commerce. A message was also sent to the president of the province, urging the speedy acquisition of a dredge for the improvement of the bar off that port.

An epidemic of fever, supposed to be typhus, has broken out at Canguçu, Rio Grande do Sul. A telegram of April 30, says that nearly all the inhabitants of the place were ill. An appeal was made to the provincial authorities for physicians and medicines. The authorities opened a relief credit of 4,000\$ for the afflicted town.

We see by late Pernambuco papers that the reverend Mariano Nogueira, bishop of New Orleans, has arrived in that city, and is busily engaged in raising money for charitable purposes. The reverend Mariano is a kinsman, if not worse, and the charitable people of Pernambuco will do well to inform him of that fact at an early day.

In Campinas the enthusiastic admirers of the Brazilian composer, Carlos Gomes, are circulating a subscription paper to raise money for a demonstration when he visits that city. It seems that simple enthusiasm is not quite equal to the occasion—therefore the following bargain is made: "You provide the money, and we'll make the noise!" That might be taken as a realization of a great finance minister's dream—an equilibrium between the receipts and expenditures."

About a year ago, says the *Jornal do Recife* of the 20th ult., a freed black woman named Marcelina was again reduced to slavery by being sold in Caruaru, Pernambuco. Marcelina had been freed by her master, José Barbosa Camello, at Bon Jardim, where she lived some time in the full enjoyment of her liberty. She was afterward captured by João Alves Bezerra Cavalcante and Joaquim Rodrigues de Sá, who sold her to José Bezerra Cavalcante Maciel in the district of Palmeira. Her whereabouts being discovered she was secretly taken away by the same parties and sold to Joaquim de Barros, of Caruaru, on a forged bill of sale from her former master, Camello. The case is now before the judicial authorities of Taquaritinga.

RAILROAD NOTES

The Rio Verde railway has, we are informed, been placed in competent hands, and preliminary work will soon be commenced.

According to a recent report there are now 1,898.8 miles of railway under traffic in Brazil, and 1,16,5 miles under construction.

There are 60,001 locomotives in the United States, each one of which contains 2,800 pieces, requiring renewal every ten or twelve years.

Messrs. A. Whitney & Sons, the car wheel makers of Philadelphia, shipped over two thousand of their cast iron chilled wheels, for tram cars, to England during the past year. They have a large order in hand for the supply of wheels for a railway in Japan. Wheels of their make may be found on nearly every railway in Brazil.

The Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia built fifty-two locomotives during the month of March last, and have orders on hand for over four hundred more.

Road locomotives with trains of wagons are used in Nevada, U. S. They take the place of mule trains. The locomotives are of 12-horse power, and weigh seven tons each.

The public are anxiously awaiting the commencement of work on some one of the projected railways to Petrópolis. If the present concessionaries do not take the field shortly there will be another Richmond in the field, who will, like the energetic builder of the Balneari railway, have his locomotives running while the rest are squabbling over the way how to do it."

The minister of agriculture notified the president of São Paulo on the 7th inst., that as the imperial government has regularly paid the interest guaranteed on the capital of the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro railway, the provincial assembly should now provide not only for investing all future payments of interest, but for repaying the imperial government for all amounts advanced. The road was built under a provincial guarantee, secured by the imperial government, and the obligation therefore justly belongs to the provinces.

WHO FREED THE CATTIA BRANCA BLACKS?

We extract the following sentence *verbis* from the third annual report (Jan. 1883) of Rev. E. Vanzenon, of the Brazilian Christian Mission of Rio Grande do Sul. Speaking of a short trip to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in December last, the report says:

"We made a hurried trip to Palmeira, to shake hands with our honoured friends, Dr. and Mrs. Gunning, who have been the means of freeing a large number of slaves of the Del Rio Gold Mining Company, who had just been condemned to a heavy indemnification to the Catta Branca blacks, who have so long been illegally held in slavery."

This, we regret to say, places us in a very embarrassing position, inasmuch as we have been accustomed to give credit to Deputy Joaquim Nabuco for bringing the matter before the government in such a manner as to favor early and just decision. Besides that we have given credit to Mr. Charles E. Williams for his patient investigation of the case, and to ourselves for giving the case publicity and urging the just claims of the Catta Branca blacks upon the government. We dislike to call the accuracy of this report into question, but these are not the blacks in whom Dr. Gunning is interested.

Stevens will arrive and clear in this port as follows:

Scammon Commander Arrive Depart
Rio Grande Capt. Cowell May 28 June 5
City of Rio de Janeiro Capt. Lewis June 28 July 5
City of Park Capt. Crosswell July 28 Aug. 5
City of Rio de Janeiro Capt. Lewis Aug. 28 Sept. 5

Draws between New York and Rio de Janeiro, 1st class \$125.

General and Passage office,

Mc CULLOCH BEECHER & COMPANY
Export and Commission Merchants.
41 AND 43 WALL STREET
NEW YORK
P. O. Box 2564

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